

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:598
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006
FIRES IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ammunitions on large scale has been destroyed in a spate of fires in Ordnance depots;
- (b) if so, the value of ammunitions destroyed thereby during 2005 and 2006, till date; and
- (c) the steps taken to modernize all the CODs to prevent further loss of ammunition?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): As many as 12 incidents of fire have been reported in the Ordnance/Ammunition depots in the past 10 years. However, only one incident of fire at Central Ammunition Depot Pulgaon (Maharashtra) has occurred during 2005-2006. Various types of fuzes associated with ammunition worth Rs. 22.20 crores were destroyed in the fire.

(c) Central Ordnance Depots are to be modernized in a phased manner and, to begin with, modernization of Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur, which is at an advance stage of completion, has been taken up. Government has also approved modernization of security and fire prevention systems in one Central Ammunition Depot, Pulgaon, one Field Ammunition Depot and one Ammunition Company at an estimated cost of Rs. 49.89 crores in the pilot phase.